

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02510 262143Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15
STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01
EUR-12 IO-13 /110 W
-----078267 270603Z /14

R 262120Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1179
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2510

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, TD, CARICOM
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MTN DELEGATION

REF: STATE 195718

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF STR AND
STATE AUGUST 24/25 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF MULTILATERAL TRADE
NEGOTIATIONS (MTN) WAS VERY USEFUL.

2. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, VIEWED IN CONTEXT OF EMBASSY'S
PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING OF STATE OF GOTT PARTICIPATION IN
MTN, WERE:

(A) GOTT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE MTN WHICH HAD
BECOME DEFUNCT IN PRACTICE BECAUSE OF CHANGES OF PERSONNEL
IN MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
WAS RECONSTITUTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF THESE TALKS; (B) GROUP
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PAGE 02 PORT O 02510 262143Z

WAS IMPRESSED BY NEED TO MOVE FORWARD RAPIDLY IN PRE-
PARING GOTT POSITION FOR MTN AND OBTAINING EARLY AGREE-
MENT WITH CARICOM PARTNERS ON OFFERS TO BE MADE IN
NEGOTIATIONS; AND (C) FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ECONOFF'S
HEARING, GOTT DID NOT RESORT TO CUSTOMARY POSITION THAT
AS LDC, THEY DID NOT NEED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION, BUT
DISCUSSED SERIOUSLY PROCEDURE THEY WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW

TO MAKE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO US REQUEST LIST. WE INTERPRETED THEIR POSITION TO INDICATE THAT THEY MIGHT WELL MAKE AN OFFER ON ITEMS REQUESTED BY US IF THEY ARE PERSUADED THEY ARE GETTING SUFFICIENT TRADE ADVANTAGES IN EXCHANGE.

3. OTHER CARICOM COUNTRIES WERE NOT REPRESENTED; GOTT REPS INDICATED THEY WOULD AS SOON NOT HAVE JAMAICANS SITTING IN ON THE DISCUSSIONS. WE SUSPECT THERE MAY BE A DIVERGENCE OF OPINION WITH JAMAICA, PARTICULARLY ON POINT (C) ABOVE, BUT GOTT PROBABLY EXPECTS THEY CAN OVERCOME ANY OBJECTIONS JAMAICA MAY HAVE TO MAKING AN OFFER BECAUSE LATTER IS PRESENTLY STANDING HAT IN HAND ON TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S DOORSTEP.

4. INEVITABLY, GOTT INTEREST IN LOWER DUTIES ON RUM WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH. WE BELIEVE THEY FULLY UNDERSTAND COMPLEXITIES OF THIS ISSUE, BUT A BREAKTHROUGH ON THIS ITEM IN THE MTN WOULD BE A MAJOR POSITIVE STEP IN IMPROVING OUR IMAGE HERE AND IN THE OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WHO ARE MAJOR RUM PRODUCERS. I UNDERSTAND A STUDY IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE ITC ON THIS QUESTION, AND WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED TO LEARN WHETHER THIS STUDY OPENS UP AN AVENUE FOR RESOLUTION OF THIS LONG-STANDING IRRITANT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.
FOX

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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